REMARKS

In response to the PTO's Office Action Summary dated December 17, 2004, Applicant here amends Claims 1 and 11, and cancels Claims 2 and 10

To overcome the Section 112(2) rejection, Applicant amends Claims 1 and 11 to eliminate the language complained of, and to state that the three layers are separate. Applicant here also amends Claim 3 to state that the layers in each module have substantially the same height.

Regarding the rejections for alleged obviousness, neither the *Kuramoto, et al.* '710 patent, nor the *Fowler, et al.* '697 patent, disclose the claimed module (frame) that extends the claimed antenna horizontally. Instead, both cited references, to the extent they seek to extend the disclosed antennas, teach adding layers vertically. *See,* for example, Fig. 11 in the '697 patent.

The radomes in each of the cited references are not frames that fit at the periphery of a first module, as Applicant claims, but rather plastic covers that have no function other than to protect the antenna from dust and dirt.

Applicants' counsel would welcome a telephone conference with PTO Examiner Wimer to discuss any new or other issue at any time.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: June 3, 2005

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Appl. No.: 10/678,463

Filed: October 3, 2003

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims

1. A modular patch antenna system comprising a first module and a second module, said first module comprising a first metal or metal-plated radiating layer, a second, middle dielectric layer, and a third metal or metal-plated ground layer, said second module comprising a frame that attaches to or fits onto the periphery of the first module, said frame comprising: a dielectric layer, [or the same three layers as said first module] said dielectric layer of said frame abutting the dielectric layer of said first module, and having an inner periphery substantially the same as the outer periphery of the dielectric layer of said first module; or a first metal or metal plated radiating layer, a second middle dielectric layer, and a third metal or metal plated ground layer, wherein the first metal or metal plated radiating layer in the second module abuts the first metal or metal plated radiating layer in the first module, the second middle dielectric layer of the second module abuts the second middle dielectric layer of the first module, and the third metal or metal plated ground layer in the second module abuts the third metal or metal plated ground layer in said first

module, and said frame has an inner periphery substantially the same as the outer periphery of said first module.

[2. The antenna of claim 1, wherein the dielectric layer of said second module abuts the dielectric layer of the first module, and has an inner periphery substantially the same as the outer periphery of the dielectric layer of said first module.]

[10. A module for a modular patch antenna system comprises a first metal or metal-plated radiating layer, a second, middle dielectric layer, and a third metal or metal-plated ground layer.]

11. A module for a modular patch antenna system comprises a frame that attaches to or fits onto the periphery of a first module [and] that comprises a first metal or metal-plated radiating layer, a second, middle dielectric layer, [or the same layers as the first module of said antenna] and a third metal or metal-plated ground layer, said frame comprising: a dielectric layer, said dielectric layer of said frame abutting the dielectric layer of said first module when placed at the periphery of said first module, or a first metal or metal plated radiating layer, a second middle dielectric layer, and a third metal or metal plated ground layer, wherein the first metal or metal plated radiating layer in the second module abuts the first metal or metal plated radiating layer in the first module, the second middle dielectric layer of the second module abuts the second middle dielectric layer of the first

module, and the third metal or metal plated ground layer in the second module abuts the third metal or metal plated ground layer in said first module, and said frame has an inner periphery substantially the same as the outer periphery of the first module.

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